

**SHISHMAREF EROSION AND RELOCATION COALITION
SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR A BETTER FUTURE**

P.O. Box 72100

Shishmaref, Alaska 99772

Luci Eningowuk, Chairperson

July 18, 2003

**Shishmaref Erosion and Relocation Coalition/
Kawerak Transportation Program
Newsletter**

Support to the Shishmaref Erosion and Relocation Coalition and Shishmaref IRA

Kawerak Transportation Program has performed the following activities on behalf of the Shishmaref IRA.

- Submitted Bureau of Indian Affairs' Indian Reservation Roads program Inventory for existing and future proposed roads for Shishmaref.
 - We have added to the inventory local roads needing improvement and new roads or extensions/improvements to existing roads within the community and a road from Ear Mountain to Tin Creek for future gravel access. We have also included the Ear Mountain road to Representative Don Young as one of the region's significant regional project.
- Developing a Shishmaref Long-Range Transportation Plan.



“Transportation Committee Members- Stanley Tocktoo, Joanne Pootoogooluk and Luci Eningowuk hard at work”

- Work has started in drafting our Long Range Transportation Plan to be included in the Regional Long Range Transportation Plan. A Transportation Committee has been formed consisting of members from each arm of our local organizations, and representatives from the Elder and Youth groups. The task of this committee is to identify existing and future transportation need of the community whether it be now or 50 years

down the road. Committee members are: Stanley Tocktoo-City of Shishmaref, Percy Nayokpuk- Shishmaref Native Corporation, Kelly Eningowuk- Native Village of Shishmaref, Davis Sockpick and Vincent Tocktoo- Elder Representatives, and Joanne Pootoogooluk and Jontiel Onalik- Youth Representatives. The committee has recommended we add two more Representatives, one lady from the Elders and one gentleman from the youth group to balance out the representation.

- Coordinated with the State's Division of Emergency Services temporary beachfront protection.
 - We have constructed the past two summers, a single line of gabions along the beach from Davis Sockpick's old site on the west side to the area below the Nayokpuk General Store's bulk fuel farm. Although, this project was not extensive as we would like, it provided some protection along the beach during the past summer of 2002 buying time enough to move some homes from the east side to the old airport area. Homes that were moved by Bering Straits Housing Authority are: Davis Sockpick's, Howard Weyiouanna's, Reuben Weyiouanna's, Johnny Weyiouanna's and Harry Kokeok's. Others being considered for future moves are Nathan Weyiouanna's and Shelton Kokeok's. However, these are tentative funding availability and owner willingness to move besides site availability.
- Developing Plans, Specification, and Project Estimates for the Indian Reservation Roads Program Seawall project for construction Summer 2003.
 - The construction of the riprap seawall is moving forward for construction this summer. A bid for rock has been awarded for the 500 foot seawall. Construction should be starting in the next month or so. Kawerak Transportation is hiring oiler/mechanics, truck drivers, heavy equipment operators, laborers, and surveyors helpers from Shishmaref's labor pool.
- Technical support to the Shishmaref Erosion and Relocation Coalition
 1. Current erosion protection planning and efforts to secure funding for beachfront protection to allow for an orderly and planned relocation.
 2. Evaluating potential relocation sites for suitability
 3. Seeking funding for evaluation of relocation site and for planning the layout of a new community.
 4. Working with the USDA- NRCS in assessing two potential sites for evacuation and relocation.
 5. Submitted application to the Military's Innovative Readiness Training program requesting technical assistance on various elements of relocating the community:
 - Evaluating the movability of existing structures
 - Engineering
 - Designing and Building infrastructure
 6. Facilitated 2 Multi-Agency Meetings to discuss the seawall and relocation projects
 - Continuous agency communication
 - Letter

- Email
- Phone
- Fax

7. Nominated a State ADOT&PF (Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities) Seawall project to the State's Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) (West of town to protect airport and road to landfill). This project nomination is still in the works with the ADOT& PF and is scheduled for construction in 2006 unless it gets cut from the budget.
8. Submitted two letters to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for an emergency Section 14 erosion mitigation project.
 - The first Section 14 project with the Corps is for the beach protection of the school property. The Corps has tentatively approved this project for \$1,000,000.00, however a 35% match is required for us to move forward with this project. The Corps will be able to access the initial funds to come and evaluate the proposed project area and to come up with a recommendation on what exactly we can do with this project. The Army Corps is planning to come to Shishmaref towards the end of July 2003 to visit the proposed project site, and the first report should out in early September. This is all subject to availability of Federal funds, as well as having a solution that is cost effective. Once they have made a recommendation we will have to have funds available for matching by March 2004 or lose the funding altogether. We tried submitting a proposal for funding of a matching from the Legislature, but were unsuccessful. Other avenues for acquiring a match are currently being researched at this time.
 - The second request is for the beach erosion protection for the washeteria and tannery. The approval of this project will most likely being contingent upon the completion of the first Section 14 project in front of the school and we putting in beach protection between the two Section 14 projects. Also, whether or not the Corps have any funds to work on this type of project.
9. Facilitated Coalition sponsored public meetings concerning erosion and relocation issues. Our latest public meeting was on April 29, 2003 here in Shishmaref. We had a good public turnout once again and a variety of representatives from various State and Federal agencies. These people included:



“Lt. Governor Loren Leman Addressing the public”



“Jeff Staser addressing the public”

- Lt. Governor Loren Leman
- Jeff Staser, Denali Commission
- Al Ewing, Denali Commission
- Marie Becker, AVEC
- Christy Miller, DCED
- Eileen Norbert, Kawerak Inc.
- Albert Kowchee, P.E., Kawerak Transportation Program
- Julianne Baltar, Kawerak Transportation Program
- Chris Allard, Summit Consulting
- Jimmy Carlisle, BSNC
- Fred Tocktoo, NPS-Nome
- George Olanna, CED-Kawerak
- Steve Becker, USDA-NRCS
- Pierre Costello, ANTHC
- Mellissa Boeckman, Kawerak
- Dave Sanches, ADOT
- Lori Rictor, USDA-NRCS
- Joe White, USDA-NRCS
- Ed Lilly, BSSD
- Jeanette Pomrenke, Kawerak
- Meera Kohler, AVEC

The main topic for the Public meeting included:

1. Shoreline Protection
 - Scope of project- Kawerak Transportation Program
 - Coordination with other construction activities
2. Evacuation and relocation sites- Reconnaissance report- NRCS
3. Funding Update
 - Request to the State
 - Request to the Federal Government
4. Public comments



“Eileen Norbert posing a question to the Lt. Governor”



“Luci Eningowuk Coalition Chairperson- taking questions from the public”

5. Next Steps
 - Recommendations
 - Follow-up Meeting spring/summer 2003

Much of the topics discussed are the same things we are bringing out in this newsletter. Julianne Baltar- Kawerak Transportation Program, Jeff Staser- Denali Commission, Lt. Governor Loren Lemman, and Steve Becker- USDA/NRCS gave presentations. We give our thanks to the public for attending and to our presenters coming to Shishmaref. The importance of our people coming to these meetings and voicing concerns of the issues relating to the community is very important in our planning for the future.

10. Public outreach-Media attention for the current events of the Coalition.

The following media groups have come to Shishmaref to work on a story of Shishmaref's erosion and relocation issues over the past two years. We have also provided photo and video documentation of erosion during and after storms to the news media:

- Canadian Broadcasting Corporation- Documentary
- German Broadcasting- Documentary
- French Documentary
- KTUU- TV
- Earth Watch Radio- Wisconsin
- New York Times
- AP Wire
- People Magazine
- Anchorage Daily News
- Nome Nugget
- KNOM- Radio
- Ready Made Magazine- Seattle
- National Geographic Magazine

11. Government Outreach: We have drafted on behalf of the Coalition letters and arranged and facilitated meetings with the following:

- Letters to Governor, State Representatives, State Senators, AK Federal Congressional Delegation
- Meetings:
 - Senators Stevens
 - Senator Olson
 - Representative Reggie Joule
 - Senator Donny Olson

All our Representatives on the State and Federal side have been very helpful in our efforts to move forward with our erosion and relocation efforts. Senator Stevens has appropriated \$1,000,000.00 through the ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATION BILL, 2003. Funded under the Tribal Partnership Program authorized by Section 203 of the WRDA 2000. The following is an extract from the House/Senate conference report: " The Committee acknowledges the serious impacts of coastal erosion due to continued climate change and other factors in the following communities in Alaska: Bethel, Dillingham, Shishmaref, Kakatovik, Kivalina, Unalakleet, and Newtok. The Committee directs the Corps to perform an analysis of the costs associated with continued erosion of these communities, potential costs associated with moving the affected communities to new locations (including collocation with existing communities), and to identify the expected time

line for a complete failure of the useable land associated with each community. An additional \$2,000,000 above the President's request has been provided for this work, of which \$1,000,000 is for Shishmaref, AK. Due to rapid erosion occurring at Shishmaref, AK, the Committee directs the Corps to expedite all necessary environmental studies to document the impacts of this severe and continuing erosion. “

Our State Representatives have submitted our request to the Legislature for the match requirement of the school property Section 14 request, but have been unsuccessful in their efforts. Mainly since the State of Alaska is in a budget crunch and both of our Representatives are in the minority caucus who do not have the majority vote for projects etc... for Alaska's needs.

12. Tribal Outreach- AFN Resolution submission:

- Alaska Federation of Natives Resolutions- In 2001 we submitted a resolution to the Delegates of AFN concerning the 2001 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives asking that the Alaska Congressional delegation and the U.S. Department of Agriculture be called upon to recommend changes to Statute, Regulations, Policies, and Guidelines that address the needs of rural Alaskan communities in times of emergencies and to expand its Emergency Watershed Program to include within its definitions shoreline and beachfront. Also, that the requirement within the Statute, Regulation and policies for the Emergency Watershed Program to require local funding match causes undue hardship for many rural communities and should be waived. Last, but not least, we mentioned that the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service provides significant value to the rural communities of Alaska, and that their function should be expanded to provide even greater service to the rural communities within Alaska.
- A second resolution was submitted and passed by the AFN Delegates and was a resolution requesting that the State of Alaska and the Federal Government continue to fund basic services and Infrastructure Development for those Alaska Native communities facing relocation due to erosion and flooding from climate changes. Shishmaref and a host of other communities are in danger of losing their cultural identity due to the fact that we may not have any choices for relocation, whether it is to relocate away from the existing sites or to another community nearby.

Plans for upcoming year:

1. Continue outreach
 - a. Federal
 - b. State
 - c. Public
2. Continue to document problems

3. Build Seawall for IRR program from west edge School property west approximately 400-500 feet, estimated cost \$1,000,000.
4. Identify suitable relocation site for consideration by the community.
5. Continue to seek funding assistance
6. Complete Shishmaref Long-Range Transportation Plan

